GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7011
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
OBJECTIONS ON COMMERCIALISATION OF BT COTTON
SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers and experts have demanded immediate withdrawal of the permission of the Union Government for allowing commercial use of BT cotton;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is likely to dislodge small farmers and benefit multi-national companies including corporate sectors;

(c) if so, the details of objections raised by farmers and experts; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) No, Sir. The conditional approval for commercial cultivation of Bt cotton by Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO) has been by and large welcomed by various interest groups, including the farmers` organizations, because of the improved economic benefits of cultivation of Bt cotton resulting from reduced use of insecticides, control of target insect pests and improved yield.